



STATE OF DELAWARE

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November 23, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Chair and Members of the Commission

FROM: Toni Loper, Public Utility Analyst 

SUBJECT: IN THE MATTER OF CORPORATE NAME CHANGE OF THE UNITED WATER INC. TO SUEZ WATER DELAWARE INC. (SUBMITTED NOVEMBER 17, 2015; FILED NOVEMBER 23, 2015)
- PSC DOCKET No. 15-1571

On November 17, 2015, United Water Delaware Inc. ("United" or the "Company") filed an application (the "Application") with the Delaware Public Service Commission ("Commission") with revised tariff pages reflecting the use of its new trade name "SUEZ Water Delaware Inc."

In the Application, United Water Delaware Inc., is requesting a name change to SUEZ Water Delaware Inc. to be effective December 3, 2015. The Company included documentation from the Delaware Secretary of State that it is legally authorized and qualified to do business in the State of Delaware.

In a letter to the Company (November 18, 2015), Staff requested additional information regarding method and date notification of the name change to United's customers. The Company will be notifying customers by bill insert beginning with December, 2015 bills and the Company anticipates that it will complete the bill insert notification within 30 days. The Company stated in the Application that it will provide public notification in The News Journal to be published on December 30, 2015, December 14, 2015, and January 4, 2016. Lastly, the Company will place a billboard in two locations in their service territory beginning November 30, 2015. Staff believes that the appropriate notification of the name change to all existing customers is in accordance with 26 *Del. C.* §102 (a).¹

¹ 26 *Del. C.* §102(a) Public Notice, In any matter or proceeding before the Commission, the Commission may decide the manner and method of giving notice to those persons affected by, likely to be affected by or likely to be interested in the matter or proceeding. In making this determination, the Commission shall not be governed by the provisions for notice by publication set out in §§ 10115(b) and 10124(1) of Title 29. Instead, such notice may be made by:

- (1) Publication in 1 or more newspapers of general circulation;
 - (2) Delivery, by mail or other means, of a written notice to those directly affected, such as ratepayers or subscribers;
 - (3) A combination of the above 2 procedures; or
 - (4) Any other means which is reasonably likely to afford the affected and interested persons notice of the pendency of the matter so that they have the opportunity to present their views, such as the placement of a notice in a customer's bill.
- In making its determination, the Commission may consider the nature of the proceedings, the number of persons affected or interested, the ability of alternative means to reach those affected and interested and the comparative costs of the alternative methods. When, under this chapter, a public utility is required to give notice to the public, the Commission shall set the form and manner of such notice.

The Company's Application states that all existing terms and conditions with existing customers will continue in force and effect, without modification in service.

The Company's request for a name change appears to be reasonable and meets the requirements of Supplier Rules. Staff, therefore, recommends the Commission recognize the name change.